

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-17. (Cancelled)

18. (New) A computer system comprising:

a processor,

a memory,

a first device, and

a device driver operable to monitor an operational status of the first device, and consequent upon a change in the operational status of the first device, to generate fault report data indicating whether the change of operational status of the first device was caused internally within the first device or externally by another device connected to the first device.

19. (New) A computer system as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the fault report data includes an indication of an operational status of the first device.

20. (New) A computer system as claimed in Claim 18, wherein, if the fault report data indicates that the change of operational status of the first device was caused externally, the device driver is operable to generate fault direction information indicative of a connection from which the external fault is perceived.

21. (New) A computer system as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the operational status of the first device is one of: up, indicating no fault, degraded, indicating that the first device is still operational but with impaired performance, or down, indicating that the first device is not operational.

22. (New) A computer system as claimed in Claim 21, wherein the operational status of the first device is determined from at least one of: a time to respond to a command, an amount of data communicated via an I/O bus, an amount of data processed by the first device, whether

information is being correctly processed, or from an error interrupt signal generated by the first device.

23. (New) A computer system as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the device driver is operable to generate environment data representative of at least one parameter value of at least one sensor associated with a device or group of devices, or a Field Replaceable Unit (FRU) containing one or more devices.

24. (New) A computer system as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the device driver generates the operational status information from at least one of: a number of memory accesses performed, a time taken to respond to a command, and an amount of data processed.

25. (New) A method of controlling a first device of a computer system, the method comprising:

monitoring an operational status of the first device, and
consequent upon a change in the operational status of the first device, generating fault report data indicating whether the change of operational status of the first device was caused internally within the first device or externally by another device connected to the first device.

26. (New) A method of controlling a device as claimed in Claim 25, wherein the fault report data includes an indication of an operational status of the first device.

27. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 25, further comprising:

if the fault report data indicates that the change of operational status of the first device was caused externally, generating fault direction information indicative of a connection from which the external fault is perceived.

28. (New) A method of controlling a device as claimed in Claim 25, wherein the operational status of the first device is one of: up, indicating no fault, degraded, indicating that the first

device is still operational but with impaired performance, or down, indicating that the first device is not operational.

29. (New) A method of controlling a device as claimed in Claim 28, further comprising:

determining the operational status of the first device from at least one of: a time to respond to a command, an amount of data communicated via an I/O bus, an amount of data processed by the first device, whether information is being correctly processed or from error interrupt signal generated by a device.

30. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 25, further comprising:

generating environment data representative of at least one parameter value of at least one sensor associated with a device or group of devices, or a Field Replaceable Unit (FRU) containing one or more devices.

31. (New) A computer readable medium comprising a computer program, the computer program including computer executable instructions, which, when loaded onto a computer system comprising a processor, a memory and a first device, provide a device driver operable to:

monitor an operational status of the first device, and

consequent upon a change in the operational status of the first device, generate fault report data indicating whether the change of operational status of the first device was caused internally within the first device or externally by another device connected to the first device.